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Words Are CAtegorical



A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink



What Is a Noun?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Jenya Prosmitsky

A Mink, ^a Fink, ^a Skating Rink



What Is a Noun?



noun: A word that
names a person, animal,
place, or thing.





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Hill

is a
noun.

Mill

is a
noun.

Even *uncle Phil*
is a noun.



Gown

is a

noun.



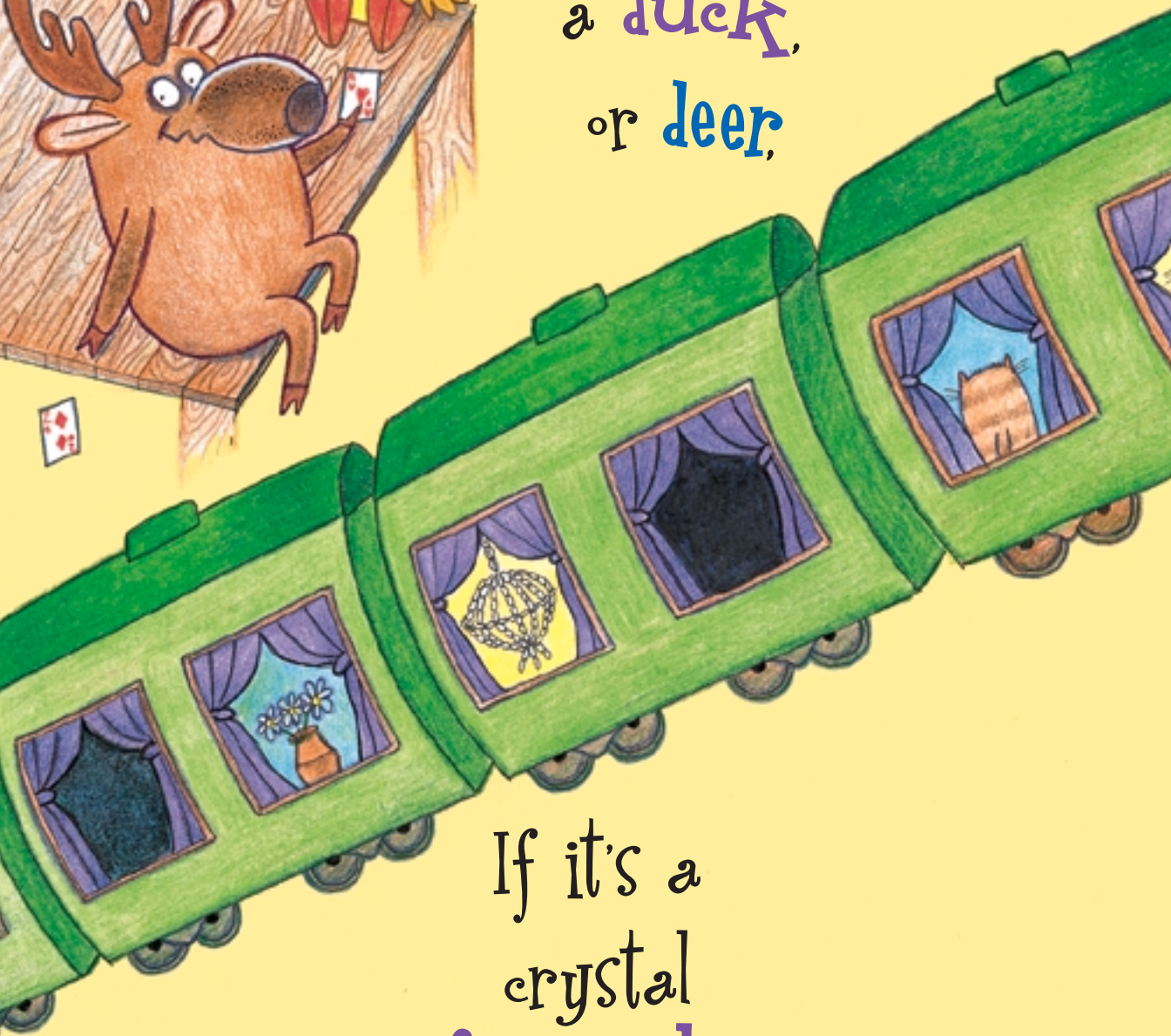
Crown is a noun.



In fact,
our whole
hometown
is a noun.



If it's a **deck**,
a **duck**,
or **deer**,



If it's a
crystal
chandelier,



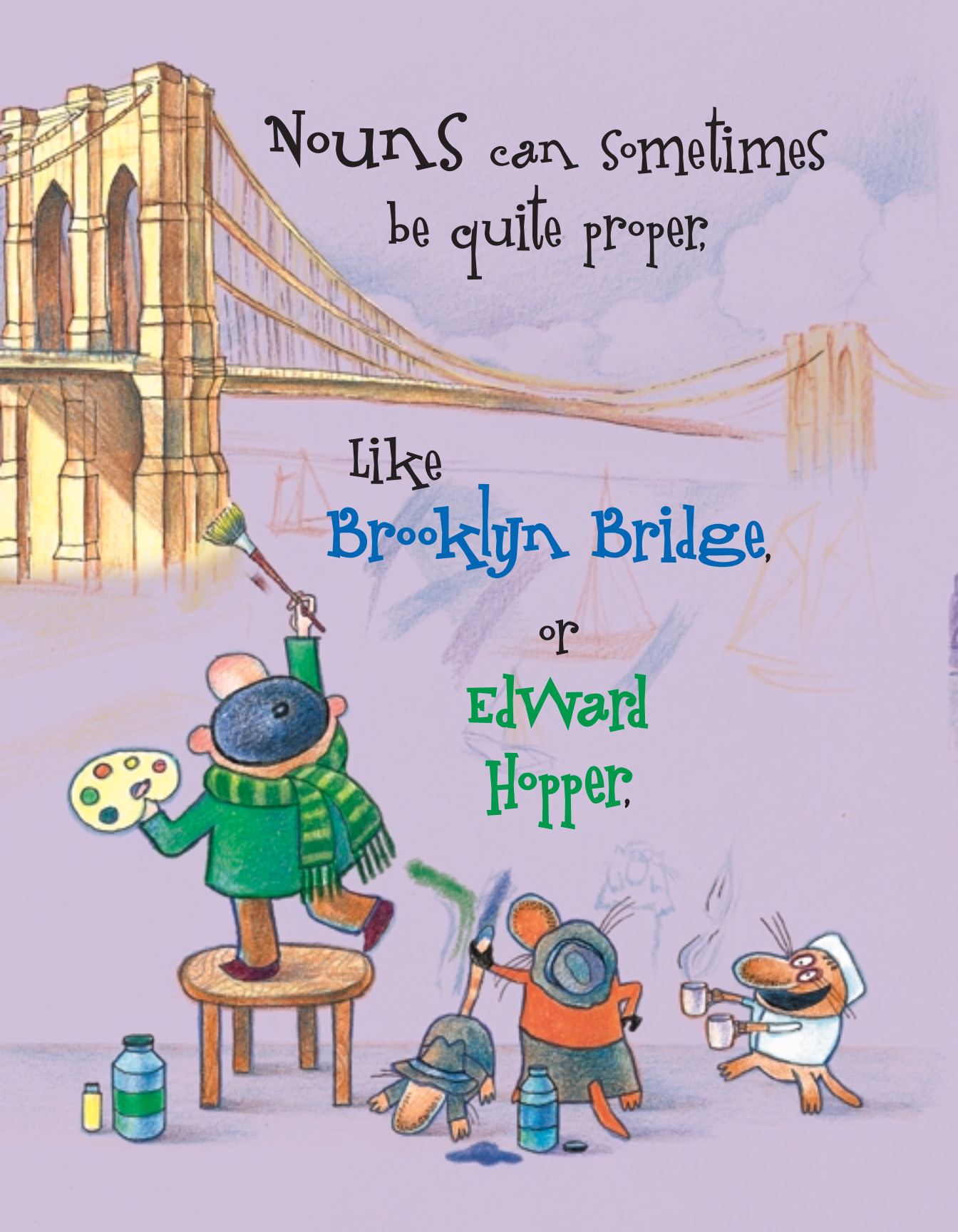
If it's a **train**,

or **brain**,

or **frown**,



It's elementary—
it's a **noun**.



Nouns can sometimes
be quite proper,

Like
Brooklyn Bridge,
or
Edward
Hopper.

London,
Levi's,
Pekinese—



Proper nouns
name all of these.



A jail,
a nail,



a bale of hay,
The pool or park in
which you play,



A quarter, a porter,
a pencil, or pear—



Nouns are seen
most everywhere





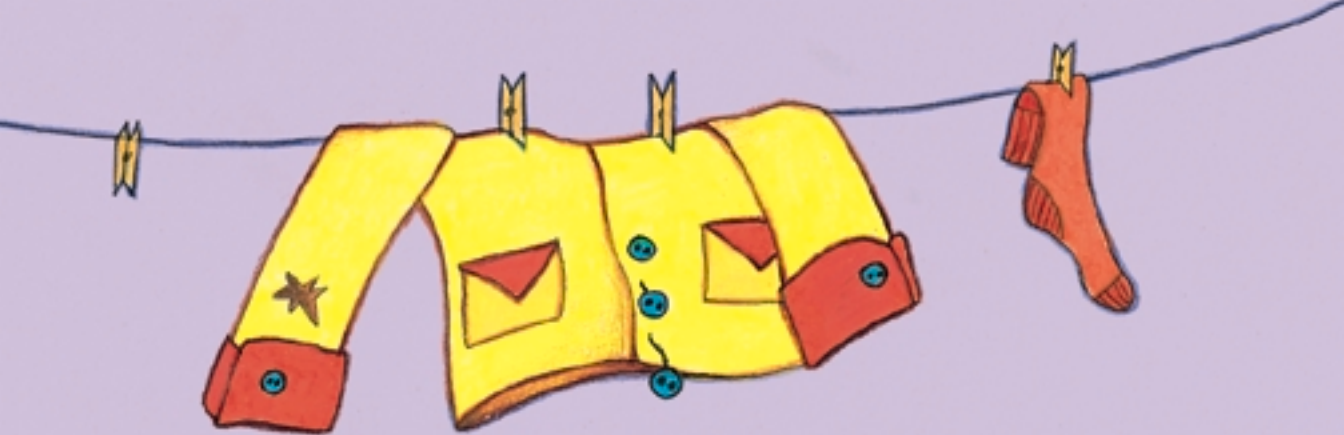
A
box,
a lip,



a chocolate chip,



A cup or glass
from which you sip,



A pocket, button,
sleeve, or cuff—

A noun can simply
be your stuff.





A **mink**,
a **fink**,
a **skating rink**,



A **cake**,
a **rake**,



your kitchen **sink**.



The pope,
Some Soap



that's on a rope,

A downtown mall,
a downhill slope.



A
house,
a mouse,
a broken
clock,



New
Mexico,
an old white
sock,

WELCOME
TO
SANTA FE



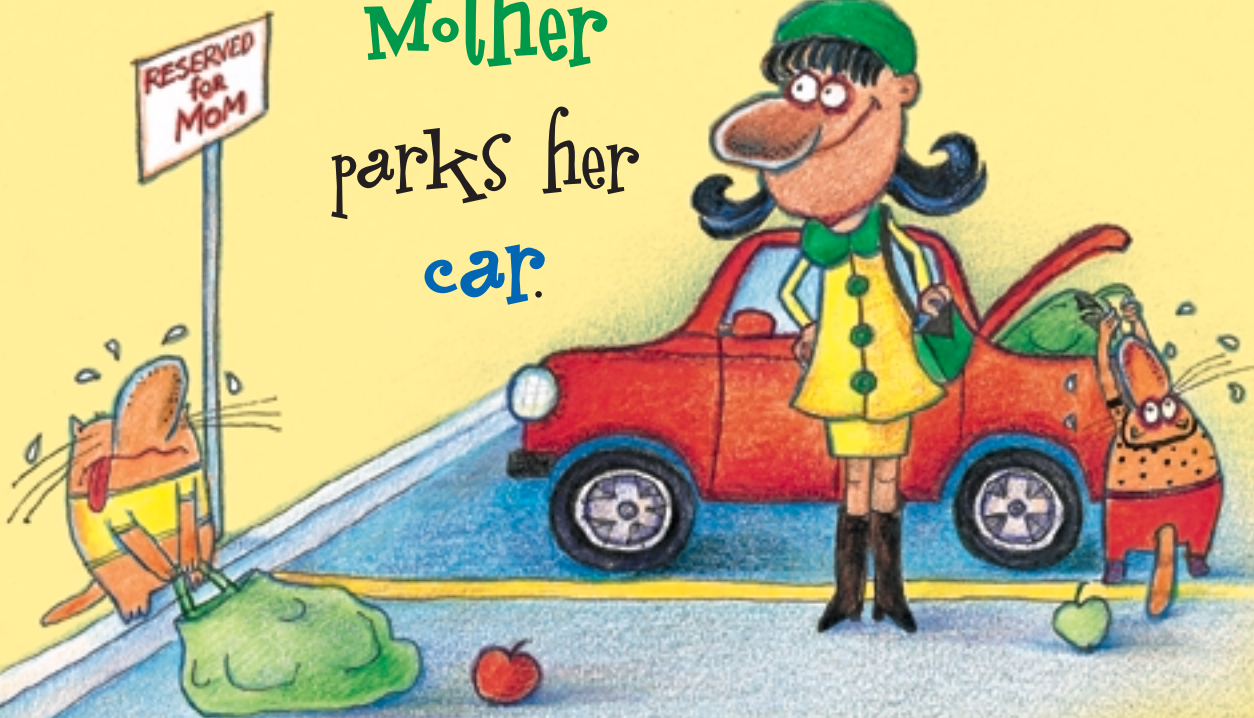


Some **tar**,
a **bar**,

a **baseball star**,



The **place** where
mother
parks her
car.





A noun
can be your
Auntie Lynn,



The **mayor** of the
town you're in,





Your friend
who tells
you corny
jokes—

A noun can be
your favorite folks.



A collar,
a scholar,
a handful
of sand,



Saxes and faxes,
the brass in the band,

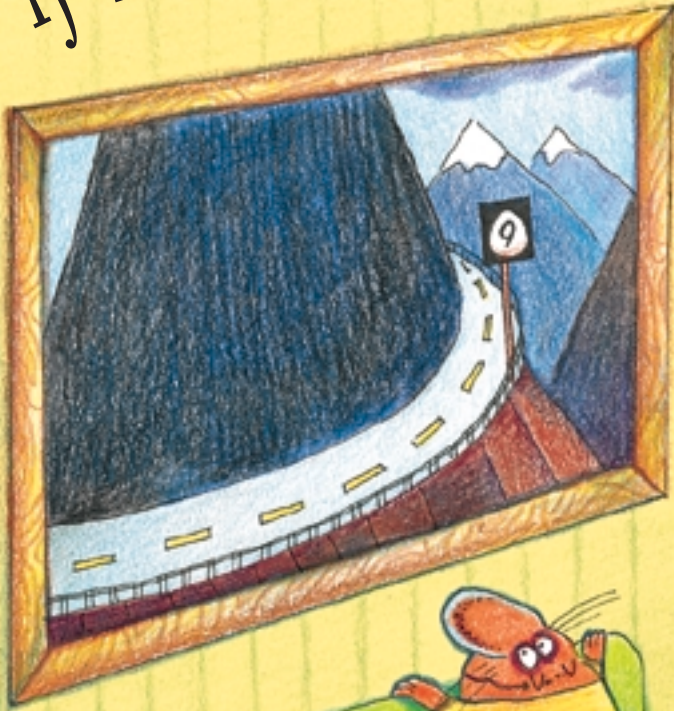


A cat, a bat,
your
grandma's
hat—



Nouns are a little
of this and that.

If it's a **place** of any kind—



A **mountain**, **hall**,
or **Highway 9**.

If it's a country,
state, or town,



Then surely, shirley,
it's a noun.

And so is a poodle,

cherry strudel,



a fork, a cork,

a curly noodle,





A king,
a queen,
Some
gasoline,



A red raspberry
ice machine.



If it's a **person**,
place, or **thing**—



Your **dad**, **Detroit**,
a **diamond ring**,



If it's a **boat** or **coat** or **down**,

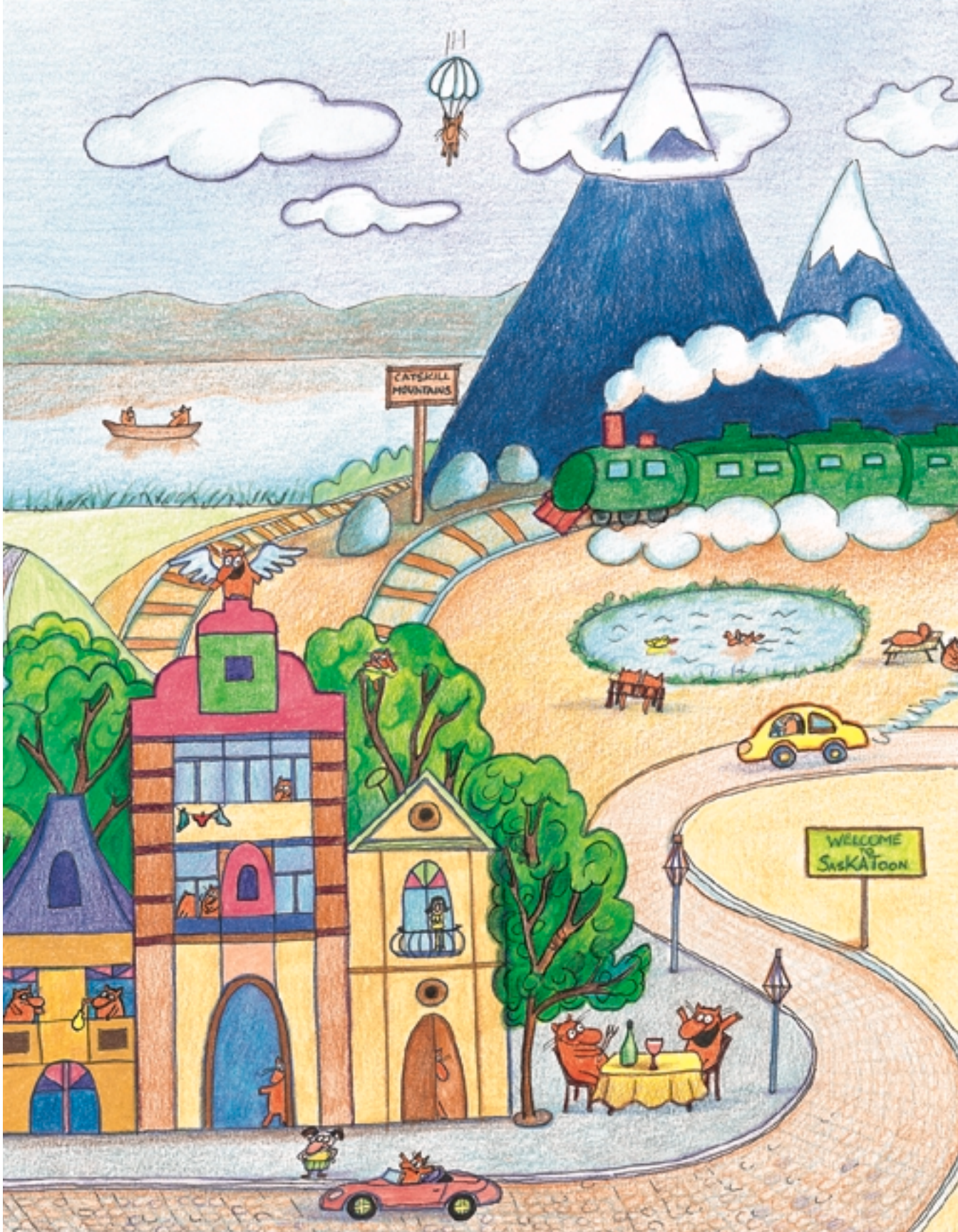


It's simple, **Simon**,
it's a **noun**!



So, what is a noun?
Do you know?





ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

BRIAN P. CLEARY is the author of several other picture books, including *Hairy, Scary, Ordinary: What Is an Adjective?* and *Give Me Bach My Schubert*. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

JENYA PROSMITSKY grew up and studied art in Kishinev, Moldova, and lives in Minneapolis. Her two cats, Henry and Freddy, were vital to her illustrations for this book and for *Hairy, Scary, Ordinary: What Is an Adjective?*

To Molly, Matt, and Andy—three very proper nouns
—B.P.C.

To my mom, who has always been crazy about cats, and my dad,
who surprised me by bringing home a kitten when I was 10
—J.P.

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